



BOX PATENT  
Atty. Docket No. 24857

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

MUELLER et al.

Serial No. 10/014,796

Group Art Unit: 1712

Filed: December 14, 2001

For: **SUTURE MATERIAL FOR SURGERY, PROCESSES FOR ITS PRODUCTION  
AND THE USE THEREOF**

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is the following:

- (1) Transmittal Letter;
- (2) IDS Statement;
- (3) IDS Transmittal Letter;
- (4) Form PTO-1449 with seventeen (17) references; and
- (5) German Search Report dated October 12, 2001.

No fee is believed to be due; however, to the extent that a fee should be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any excess to Deposit Account No.14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,

NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Gary M. Nath  
Registration No. 26,965  
Customer No. 20529

Date: February 27, 2002  
NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC  
1030 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW - 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: 202-775-8383  
Facsimile: 202-775-8396  
GMN/JKH:dd:TRANS.wpd

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FEB 28 2002  
TC 1700

RECEIVED  
APR 16 2002  
TC 1700



**BOX PATENT APPLICATION**  
Attorney Docket No. 24857

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Group Art Unit: 1712

MUELLER et al.

Serial No. 10/014,796

Filed: December 14, 2001

For: **SUTURE MATERIAL FOR SURGERY, PROCESSES FOR ITS PRODUCTION AND  
THE USE THEREOF**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97-1.99, the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are being brought to the attention of the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application. No fee is required for this submission because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

Copies of the documents are attached herewith with a completed Form PTO-1449. The Examiner is respectfully requested to cite the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 in the next Office Action. In so doing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initial in the space adjacent to the listing of each document on the Form PTO-1449, and return a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449

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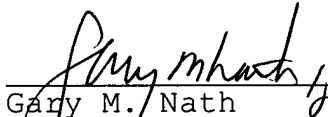
with the next communication to Applicants, to confirm that these documents have been considered by the Examiner and made of record in this application.

If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss this application, kindly telephone the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

**NATH & ASSOCIATES**

Date: February 27, 2002

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary M. Nath  
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(GMN/jkh:IDS)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

MUELLER et al.

Serial No. 10/014,796

Filed: December 14, 2001



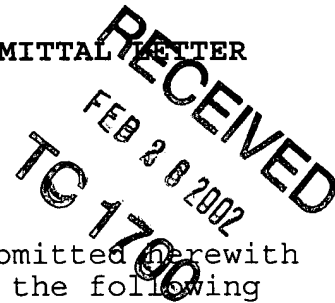
Group Art Unit: 1712

Attorney: GMN/JKH

For: **SUTURE MATERIAL FOR SURGERY, PROCESSES FOR ITS PRODUCTION AND THE USE THEREOF**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
S I R :



An Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.98. Please note the following particulars:

[NOTE: One only of items a, b, c, and d must be checked.]

- [ X ] a. The enclosed statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application, or within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last.
- [ ] b. The enclosed statement is being filed after a first action on the merits but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, or a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311.

The enclosed statement is accompanied by [check one]:

- [ ] i. a certification in part (e) below as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e), or
- [ ] ii. a check in the amount of \$180.00 required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- [ ] c. The enclosed statement is being filed after the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, or a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, but before payment of the issue fee.

PETITION: It is requested that the information being submitted be considered. [NOTE: If box (c) is checked, the following two boxes must be checked.]

- [ ] PETITION FEE: A check for \$130.00 required by 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1), is enclosed.
- [ ] CERTIFICATION is attended to in box (e) below.



- [ ] d. The enclosed statement is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(i), for placement in the file.
- [ ] e. Certification [Check one] [Certification is required only if box (b) (i) or box (c) is checked.]
- [ ] I hereby certify that each item of information contained in the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement,
- or
- [ ] I hereby certify that no item of information in the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- or
- [ ] Appropriate certification is attached.
- [ X ] f. If no check is enclosed and a fee is due in connection with this communication or if the check enclosed is insufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or additional fee due in connection with this communication to Deposit Account No. 14-0112. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,  
**NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC**

Date: February 27, 2002

By: 

Gary M. Nath  
Registration No. 26,965  
Customer No. 20529

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GMN/dd (IDS.HLN)

FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATIONAtty Docket  
24857Serial No.  
10/014,796Applicant  
MUELLER et al.Filing Date  
December 14, 2001Group Art Unit  
1712

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub-Class	Filing Date
AA		6,011,121 ✓	Jan. 4, 2000	GOLDMANN et al.	525	414	Aug. 13, 1997
AB		5,889,075 ✓	Mar. 30, 1999	ROBY et al.	522	87	Oct. 10, 1997
AC		5,431,679 ✓	Jul. 11, 1995	BENNETT et al.	606	230	Mar. 10, 1994
AD		5,076,807 ✓	Dec. 31, 1991	BEZWADA et al.	606	230	Jul. 31, 1989
AE		4,705,820 ✓	Nov. 10, 1987	WANG et al.	524	381	Sep. 5, 1986
AF							
AG							
AH							
AI							
AJ							

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub-Class	Translation
AK		198 28 416 ✓	June 2, 1999	DE			Yes
AL		196 41 335 ✓	April 9, 1998	DE			Yes
AM		40 03 233 ✓	August 8, 1991	DE			Yes
AN		39 37 272 ✓	May 16, 1991	DE			Yes
AO		0 908 482 ✓	April 14, 1999	EP			Yes

## OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

AP		
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Examiner

Date Considered

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609.  
 Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered.  
 Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

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	BA						
	BB						
	BC						
	BD						
	BE						
	BF						
	BG						
	BH						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub-Class	Translation
	BI	0 839 542 ✓	May 6, 1998	EP			Yes
	BJ	0 774 265 ✓	May 21, 1997	EP			Yes
	BK	0 635 531 ✓	Jan. 25, 1995	EP			Yes
	BL	0 608 139 ✓	Jul. 27, 1994	EP			Yes
	BM	WO 00/22991 ✓	Apr. 27, 2000	PCT			Yes
	BN	WO 00/16699 ✓	Mar. 30, 2000	PCT			Yes
	BO	WO 00/01307 ✓	Jan. 13, 2000	PCT			Yes
	BP						

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	BQ	
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Examiner

Date Considered

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609.  
 Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered.  
 Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.